

strike is unreported, beaten by Negro strike breakers, 1; Negro unionist beaten by parties unreported, 1; persons whose relation to strike is unreported, injured by private detectives, 4.

At a secret conference of the Employers' association held late at night on the 3d, it was unanimously voted, as reported by the Record-Herald of the 4th, that "military forces are indispensable for the protection of life and property."

Military Slaughter in Warsaw.

Several persons were killed by Russian troops in Warsaw, capital of Russian-Poland, on the 1st, in connection with a labor demonstration in the public streets. Several thousand workingmen, carrying a red flag, were parading, peaceably as it is reported, when their passage was blocked by a squadron of cavalry and battalions of infantry. The workingmen were ordered to turn back and disperse. In the resulting confusion, a stone thrown from the crowd hit an infantry soldier, and the next instant the troops fired into the crowd and the cavalry charged them. Later in the day a labor gathering was ordered by troops to disperse, and refusing was fired upon. About 60 men and women are reported as killed in the two encounters and 200 as wounded, but the number is really unknown. Angered by this slaughter, the workingmen on the following day called a general strike throughout Poland and Lithuania, and it is reported that every factory in Warsaw was immediately closed. A popular demonstration for the 5th, the 114th anniversary of the proclamation of Polish independence, has been called by the Socialists, the Nationalists and labor organizations, and further slaughter is expected.

Protection in Great Britain.

A somewhat different phase of the labor question was presented in the British House of Commons on the 2d in a debate over a Ministerial bill for the exclusion of "undesirable" aliens. Sir Charles Dilke opposed the bill with a hostile amendment, and was supported by Charles P. Trevelyan. The opposition to the bill proceeded along the lines of England's

traditional policy of offering a haven to the oppressed of every land. Mr. Balfour, the prime minister, defended it as a moderate measure for the prevention of excessive immigration; and Mr. Chamberlain defended it especially as an entering wedge for his protective policy (p. 39). He argued urgently that its purpose was to protect British workingmen from the competition of immigrants, and said he hoped to see the same idea advanced to the point of a bill preventing the goods of these people, as well as the people themselves, from coming into competition with British workingmen. The Dilke amendment was lost by 211 to 59.

British Land Value Taxation.

This debate had been preceded on the 14th of April by one on the subject of taxation with reference to a measure that had three times been before parliament and was now there for the fourth—the measure for the taxation of land irrespective of its improvements and on the basis of its selling value (vol. vii, pp. 12, 28, 618). As described by C. P. Trevelyan, who moved the second reading, the bill in question was the same in every important respect as the previous ones. Its main object was to make an assessment of the land values of towns and urban districts, and to place upon the local tax sheet a second column, which would consist of an assessment of 3 per cent on the selling value of the land. The bill had been urged with practical unanimity, Mr. Trevelyan explained, by the local authorities of the United Kingdom, no fewer than 166 municipalities, 152 urban district councils, and 128 poor-law authorities having passed resolutions in its favor. He did not argue that land reformers were inclined to regard the bill as all that was needed, but rather as the basis on which it was hoped that a thorough reform of the system of local taxation could stand. In describing the evil of the present system he attributed it to the fact that local taxes fall with excessive weight upon houses, improvements and enterprise,—nine-tenths of the local assessment being often made up of the value of buildings. This seemed, he said, "to bring us face to face with the real reason for

overcrowding in our cities." The bill proposes to do two things: first, to provide for an assessment of the land values of taxable premises, separately from the improvement values; and secondly, to tax the land, not, as at present, according to its actual annual income, but on its selling value. A hostile amendment, "that a satisfactory reform of the present system of local taxation must be arrived at, not by piecemeal and partial treatment, but by such legislation as will secure fair and equitable results to all classes of the community," offered in the landed interests, was defeated on division by 202 to 112, a majority of 90, and the second reading stage was ordered without division; but a motion to refer the bill to the standing committee on law, being opposed, stood over.

The parliamentary vote on land value taxation had been preceded only by two days by a conference of representatives of local taxing authorities of Great Britain, which met at Westminster Palace Hotel, London, on the 12th of April, for consideration of the same subject. Ex-Bailie Ferguson, J. P., of Glasgow, presided, and among those present were Mr. J. H. Whitley, M. P., and Mr. Trevelyan, M. P. It was resolved unanimously that the members of the conference pledge themselves, on behalf of their respective constituencies, to use every means in their power to secure the passing of the parliamentary bill for taxing land values.

Municipal Questions in the United States.

On the American side of the Atlantic, municipal questions relate less to taxation than to the ownership and regulation of public utilities. The municipality most disturbed by this subject at the moment is Philadelphia. This city originally owned and operated its own gas plant. By dubious methods its authorities were induced in 1897 to lease the plant to the United Gas Improvement company for 30 years, with the privilege of altering the lease at ten year periods. The rent was to be a certain percentage of the earnings, and has increased from \$200,000 for the first year, to \$650,000 for the seventh, which ended December 31, 1904. On the pre-